

San Jose April 27th 1891 P.O.Box 286

Sereno Watson Esqr  
Curator Harvard Herborium;

Dear Sir; If my manner of addressing you, should not be technically correct, I think you will excuse an error of that kind, in a person who has been continuously on the West side of the Rocky Mountains, since 1852, with the exception of six months in 1876.

It was my fortune to be appointed by the President of the California State Medical Society, to open the discussion on the Report on Indigenous Botany etc, at the meeting of the Society, which was held in Sacramento, during the 21st, 22d, 23d and 24th of this month. I received notice of the appointment about six weeks before the meeting was to be held, and I thought it would be a proper thing to do, to write out a brief account of the State Geological Survey, and especially of that part of its history, in brief, connected with the Botanical department thereof. My paper was referred to the Committee on Publication, and probably will be published in the Volume of Transactions of the Society. But I will have opportunity to make any little change, in regard to matters of which I may procure additional information; and I would like to be able to make a more definite statement in regard to the gentlemen who were most prominently active in performing the work for the two volumes of the Botanical Department Report,

and if you will be so kind, as to answer me the following, it will enable me to do so. When did Professor Asa Gray die?

Stated as it appears in the records of Harvard; What chair did the Professor occupy? Professor W.H. Brewer, it is stated in the prefatory writings of Professor Whitney, went east to take a chair in the Sheffield School of Sciences of Yale College. Please state what chair, and if he still occupies the same chair; and if in some other position, please state.

Professor Whitney, stated that you were the Botanist of the Fortieth Parallel Survey. Will you be so kind as to state the years you were connected with that Survey; and in a few words, the purposes and work of the said Survey, as my memory serves me badly in that matter: in fact I think that that service was performed, at a time when I was on this Coast, and so busy with the affairs of my immediate surroundings, that I hardly took cognizance of what was happening elsewhere.

Professor Greene of our State University, has told me that you are the Curator of the Harvard Herbarium, at Cambridge.

If occupying that position, at present, please so state; and any circular of announcement which would give information concerning the Herbarium would interest me. A few words as to the occupation of Professor Whitney since he went east last, would also interest me; and of his present position; if still at work.

I will send you one or more papers which I have heretofore read before the State Medical Society. By

By complying, in full, or to the extent which you will be able, without inconvenience, you will greatly Oblige ,

Yours Very Respectfully;

Wm Chipman M.D.

P.S. Please excuse many machine mistakes, as I am not expert enough in the use of the machine, to write with it, without making mistakes, unless with slower performance, that I have time to spare for it.

Wm C.

Please be so kind as to answer without delay, as my paper may be required by the printer soon.

Wm C.

Chilpan